



RADIO - TV DEFENSE DIALOG



RADIO TV REPORTS INC. WASH., D.C., SUMMARIES NOT TO BE QUOTED

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1985 (BROADCASTS OF TUES., FEB. 12, 1985)

SUMMARY OF NETWORK NEWS IN THIS ISSUE

STEALTH TECHNOLOGY: Military aircraft embodying Stealth technology are reportedly being tested at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Report by David Martin, CBS.

SEARCH FOR MIAs: A former prisoners in Vietnam says that 50 to 70 Americans were still in captivity when he was released in 1979. The Reagan Administration assumes captive Americans could still be alive. Report by Wyatt Andrews, CBS.

CHINA'S ASSESSMENT OF U.S. AND SOVIET POWER: Jane's Defense Weekly reports that China believe the U.S. and Soviet Union will maintain a military balance for the rest of this decade, but that the U.S. is gaining in economic power. Report by Tom Brokaw, NBC.

WESTMORELAND-CBS TRIAL: A former aide to General Westmoreland testified that the General had placed a ceiling on enemy strength estimates. Report by Bob Jamieson, NBC.

GRENADA AK-47 CASE: Secretary of the Navy John Lehman says that Admiral Metcalf was not accorded preferential treatment in the handling of the cases involving illegal appropriations of Soviet-made automatic rifles. Report by Dean Reynolds, ABC.

AID TO EL SALVADOR: The State Department has rejected congressional charges that most U.S. aid to El Salvador is used for military purposes. Report by Peter Jennings, ABC.

PREPARED BY THE AIR FORCE (SAFAA) AS EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF KEY DOD PERSONNEL MATTERS WITHIN THEIR OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

For information regarding this publication call Mr. Harry Zubkoff, 695-2884

CBS EVENING NEWS
7:00 P.M.

CBS-TV
FEBRUARY 12

Stealth Technology

DAN RATHER: You may or may not have heard about the U.S. defense system called Stealth. It is designed to get U.S. warplanes safely through enemy defenses. It is so highly secret that U.S. officials have hidden some of the money paying for it, and they don't say whether or not it is actually operating.

Pentagon correspondent David Martin has been investigating the intriguing and potentially very important Stealth.

DAVID MARTIN: Dawn at the Las Vegas airport. Hundreds of workers file aboard unmarked planes. Informed sources tell CBS News that many of them are bound for a secret airstrip where something extraordinary is happening. Somewhere out there in the desolation of Nevada's Nellis Air Force Base is a small fleet of a dozen or more fighter planes. Known as Stealth, they are designed to be invisible to Soviet air defenses. Stealth is one of the Pentagon's most secret projects.

This is as close as you can get to the Stealth fighters. Their base is somewhere beyond that gate. When the Pentagon expanded the base to accommodate the growing number of planes, it hid the money in the defense budget so no one would notice. Working through Senator Paul Laxalt of Nevada, the Pentagon channeled construction funds into a special research account.

Much of Stealth is masked by another secret program, the Department of Energy's testing of nuclear weapons.

Tracing the tail numbers of

the planes which transport the workers only leads to unlikely addresses in New York and Dallas. One of the planes landed where maps show only an abandoned airstrip. A higher-angle view shows a 10,000-foot runway that looks anything but abandoned.

Flying close to Nellis is risky business.

JERRY MURPHY: There are people monitoring radar scopes that have nothing better to do than just make sure stray aircraft don't wander in.

MARTIN: CBS News didn't enter the restricted area, but came close enough to be buzzed by Air Force jets.

The Stealth fighter is made here at the Lockheed skunkworks in Burbank, California. The first planes were handmade, and according to one source cost more than \$100 million apiece.

The planes are loaded aboard a C-5A transport and flown to Nellis at night. Lockheed also makes the SR-71, the first plane to use Stealth techniques, avoiding the sharp angles which show up best on radar.

Today's Stealth is built of special materials that absorb rather than reflect radar beams. One source who has seen the plane says it has delta-shaped wings, much like this modified F-16.

The planes are being tested against an exact replica of the Soviet air defense network. Whether or not they will work against the real thing depends in part on whether what is going on here at Nellis is as much a mystery to the Soviets as it is to the U.S. public.

Search for MIAs

RATHER: Some of the Americans who fought in the jungle hell that was the